

BEAUTY FOR THE TEA HOURS.

Dainty costumes to wear between the hours of 5 and 7.

All-white Tea Gowns Most Approved Just Now—Flowered Muslins, Silks and Velvets Also Used—Dressing Gowns and Boudoir Gowns for Comfort.

The tea hours, from 5 to 7, are gradually taking on more importance in the American social scheme. With their rise comes the cult of the tea gown which the American woman has not yet taken to her heart as her French and English sisters have done.

The woman who can afford to have tea gowns and doesn't have them is under-estimating of fate's good things, for there is no costume in which a pretty woman looks prettier, and a skillfully designed tea gown can make even a plain woman look attractive. There's a seductive swirl and daintiness and grace about the flowing draperies, there is femininity expressed in their artful artlessness.

In its most exquisite expression the tea gown is a costly thing, so much beautiful



material goes into its making, such a wealth of elaboration may be introduced into its careless elegance. Then, too, in its flimsy form it is perishable, but that fact cuts no figure with the women who affect it.

Just now all-white tea gowns are the most approved and possibly the most satisfactory of them are of white crepe de chine, which has the required delicacy and grace, yet is more durable than the



mousseline and nets used for some of the gowns. There are numerous soft white wools or silk and wool mixtures which are also favored, but crepe in any light shade is the preferred tea gown material.

Sometimes the whole gown is made of the crepe. More often an outer robe of crepe is worn over an under robe of chiffon or mousseline.

The latter idea is carried out in one of the tea gowns sketched here, in which a crepe outer robe in palest rose is made



over a full soft under gown of white chiffon and in a girlish. The outer gown has the shoulder caps and the wide loose cuffs. The huge sleeves are appliqued in chiffon and lace, the same trimming being repeated across the front décolletage.

A second tea gown shows the outer robe of cream lace over a robe of white mousseline whose skirt and corsage are ornamented with set-in motifs of lace corresponding to the flowing robe.

Flowered mousselines are most effective

over plain mousseline, and among darker color schemes the black gauze, flowered and made over plain black gauze, is beautiful.

There are, of course, more substantial tea gowns in velvet, dark crepe, soft silks, etc., and the velvet robe over a chiffon petticoat and chemise has much to recommend it. The Empire robe, too, is especially good in velvet, and jeweled clasps and girdles are suitable details for the velvet gown.

But the velvet must be of beautiful sheen



and soft clinging quality, and that means a first expense that far exceeds the cost of the crepe and mousseline. A chiffon velvet comparatively new is an ideal material for the soft flowing robe.

For the woman of moderate means, a fine velveteen in a good color presents attractive possibilities, but in using velveteen one should keep to the dark colors, which show less plainly the inferiority of



the material. The tea gown is in its essence an addition de luxe, and it requires an artist of uncommon skill to fashion ordinary fabric into a garment worthy to associate with the tea gowns of fashion.

But there are other negligés not dignified by the name of tea gown which may come within any well-gowned woman's reach and are charming in their own genre. All negligés, like Gaul of old, are divided into three parts: Tea gowns, boudoir gowns, dressing gowns.

The dressing gown must be comfortable, durable, easily thrown on and off, suited to careless lounging and rough treatment. It has found picturesque fulfillment in the kimono and there are other dressing gown models attractive and becoming.

One of plain roll'n egg blue broadcloth, shown in an illustration, has no trimming save graduated bands of black velvet ribbon, yet, with its long scarf girdle and deep pointed collar, it is a very charming garment, and the serene robe of cerise cloth bordered with bands of white, black and cerise embroidery is distinctly chic.

In the realm of boudoir gowns one finds more elaboration. They need not have the social function air of the tea gown. They may be genuine flowing negligés, girdles of restraining girdles, but they need not be so serviceable as the dressing gown.

Here again crepe is the most satisfactory material, and there is illustrated a loose robe of peach color crepe plissé. There is an outer and an inner or petticoat robe, but the latter is not girdled, so the two fall together in soft folds and the fact that there are two is marked only by the ending of the deep lace-bordered cape collar which is adjusted to the outer gown and secured by little ribbon choux down either side of the front.

Accordian pleating is used extensively on the loose boudoir gowns and more or less lace and embroidery are employed according to the taste and purse of the wearer. Cashmere, albatross, nun's veiling and many silk and wool mixtures are practicable for the boudoir gown, and an accordian-pleated robe of albatross in some pale shade, with lace collar and lace underplais, may be made for ten or fifteen dollars and will be exceedingly charming.

One thing should be noted by the wearer of negligés. Not every woman is blessed with a pretty neck, and the slightly décolleté negligé, so attractive upon the right person, should be avoided by the woman whose neck leaves much to be desired. As for the collarless or slightly "V" line, common among ready-made negligés and in kimono, it is unbecoming to nine women out of ten. No woman who has learned how much a soft transparent lace gimp with collar adds to her appearance in her boudoir gown will ever be without that item of dress.

The coffee jacket is another European fad which is slow in finding a hold here, yet it is a delightful thing to slip on when one wishes to take off a gown bodice, yet not assume full negligé. It is a glorification of the dressing jacket, but unlike the latter is worn, as is the tea gown, in drawing room as well as boudoir. Lace, mousseline and the inevitable crepe are the favored materials for these jackets, and a typical group of them is pictured on this page.

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WOMEN IN THE SCHOOL BOARDS.

RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW SYSTEM HERE.

The Experiment Called a Success—Things Women Can Do as Members of the Local Boards—Their Good Influence Felt—They Expect to Do More in Future.

Just at this time, when the aspirations of women instructors in the public schools of New York make many folks wonder whether before long the schools will not be entirely under petticoat government, some taxpayers are asking how the experiment of having women on the local school boards has succeeded. Do these women take an active part in the managing of schools? What have they accomplished? Have they originated any valuable innovations? are some of the questions lately put in circulation—questions, by the way, a good deal easier to ask than to answer.

As most persons know, the women and the men who constitute the local school boards serve without salary. For that reason, perhaps, officials high in educational matters, when confronted with the foregoing questions, are disappointingly vague. Furthermore, the women of the local boards themselves, handicapped probably by modesty, have with one or two exceptions, no illuminating statistics to offer. Most of them, in fact, talk on the subject, if they talk at all, with a far-off expression in their eyes and a generous use of the future tense.

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ters appertaining to dollars and cents, and the enthusiasm of the others with the most gratifying results.

Both men and women are undoubtedly needed on the local boards. But for mercy's sake, concluded the Superintendent in a panic, "don't imagine I am accusing women of being practical. Oh dear, no, I don't."

"We are only just beginning our great work," said one of the women referred to, gazing meditatively at the superintendent for a moment and so far, few of us, I fancy, have much to tell.

"Personally I feel that the scope of my work is boundless, far beyond at least anything mapped out by the Board of Education. To begin with, being identified with the local school boards gives a woman a certain entrée to educational institutions everywhere and a certain degree of authority in the district in which she lives when it comes to questions relating to the well-being of the young. Some of us mean to utilize these advantages for all they are worth."

"There is Mrs. Henry Parsons, for example. Almost every one has heard about the farm school she started over in the seventh avenue last summer for the benefit of the tenement children in her district and of the good that resulted from it. In all probability Mrs. Parsons has not been identified with the local school board since she made the start in getting permission from the city to use the vacant site in that locality for her purpose. As it was she made the start most successfully and the outcome may be that the Board of Education will decide to include gardening in the curriculum of some of the public schools."

"Mrs. Parsons' work, though, did not stop with the cessation of the farming school near the river. A few weeks ago she started in her district the Long Acre, which means organization designed to bring together once a week the parents of children who attend the public schools—not an easy matter to do, short of providing a lively entertainment as a magnet."

"As it has turned out, though, every Friday night about seventy men and women gather in the assembly room of the West Forty-fourth street school and there discuss all sorts of questions relative to their children's education."

"Every member is at liberty to air his or her views, and it is easy to see that already parents are taking an active part in the public schools and their good govern-

ment, such as they never felt before, and the outcome is bound to be better lessons and more faithful attendance on the part of the children. This is but one of the happier times alike for teachers and principals."

"Other women of the local school boards are inspired by Mrs. Parsons' example to do work of a similar nature in their own districts, and before long it will prove to be easier to point out no end of splendid achievements to the credit of the women of the local school boards—achievements quite outside of any hinted at in the Charter."

"Meanwhile, I do not wish the Board of Education would give a little more power in the management of the public schools."

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